

Energy and Environment Committee Meeting Summary

October 2, 2003

Item Number

Summary

- 2.0 Mention was made of Hon. Dennis Washburn's role in securing the purchase of the Ahmanson Ranch property for use as a park, augmenting the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by 2800 acres.
- 4.0 Action minutes were pulled from the consent calendar since they were not ready for approval. They will be provided next month.
- 5.0 Scope for the Programmatic EIR was approved per staff recommendation.
- 6.1 Informational presentation on role and accomplishments of South Coast AQMD (no major questions or issues).
- 6.2 Report on federal wilderness bill developing in Senate. EEC would like speakers on the November or December agendas representing all sides of this issue, possibly to include staff from Sen. Boxer (the author's) office, League of Cities members opposed, and environmental groups.
- 6.3 Staff updated the Committee on efforts to secure other sources of funding for Transportation Control Measures in the 2002 TIP, which are needed to make a conformity finding for the 2004 RTP. Committee is concerned about how project-specific funds to be refunded by the state in 2009 will be allocated and requested follow-up by staff.
- 7.0 Water Policy Task Force last met on September 18 and heard presentations on the LA City/LA County settlement of the trash TMDL lawsuit and on other cities' continuing suits; on state guidance on TMDLs and removing water body impairments; and on the developing agreement for Colorado River Water. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13; the conflict between this and the SCAG Economic Forecast Conference was discussed and staff is to follow up.
- 9.0 Staff reported that the proposal to create an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee is being considered by the Strategic Plan Task Force as they evaluate the role of an issue-oriented advisory committee for SCAG. A brief EIR update was also given.
- 10.0 Committee members requested future presentations on wetlands restoration, development, and integration into planning; Port Hueneme's brackish water demonstration treatment facility; and the report of the State desalination Task Force on which Committee member Hon. Debbie Cook sits.

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Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar, which included only the minutes, was approved without objection and without discussion.

4.1

Release of 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Growth Forecast for Public Review

Lynn Harris, Manager of Community Development, described the recommended action – the release of the forecast component of the Draft RTP for public review – and reviewed the milestones and work done to date in preparing this forecast. Ms. Harris then introduced John Fregonese, of Fregonese-Calthorpe Associates who described the features of the Growth Visioning Alternative. Mr. Fregonese presented the alternative as a growth and land use plan that emphasizes centers and corridors, and achieves a high level of transportation system performance.

The committee had substantial discussion on the recommended action, including concerns over the inclusion of Operation Jumpstart assumptions, and also related to the absence of a final Growth Vision report that will be circulated later in the month.

The Committee voted to release the RTP Growth Forecast with one “no” vote.

5.1

Inland Empire Indicators Report

Alexa Washburn, staff to the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) describes the sub-region’s recently completed work effort. The report was done collaboratively with the Coachella Valley Council of Governments, the San Bernardino Associated Governments, and the Inland Empire Economic Alliance. Ms. Washburn circulated copies of the report to the Committee. The report grades the inland areas for various quality of life and competitiveness issues, and is similar to SCAG’s State of the Region report.

5.2

Economic Forecast Conference

Bruce Devine, SCAG Chief Economist, updated the Committee on preparations for this year’s event on November 13 at the Hyatt Newporter. Of note, SCAG has secured Justo Frias, of Gigante supermarkets as a keynote.

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5.3 Housing Element Working Group

Jacob Lieb, Senior Regional Planner, updated the committee on the deliberations of the Housing Element Working Group which is negotiating potential changes to State law. Mr. Lieb characterized the discussions as on-going with little substantial agreement in place. Staff will continue giving these updates as the process concludes.

5.4 Growth Visioning Subcommittee Report

Mayor Bev Perry, Chair of the Growth Visioning Subcommittee updated the Committee on the last Growth Visioning meeting.

6.0 Chair's Report

Mayor Bill Alexander announced the appointment of Laura Ohlasso to the Growth Visioning Subcommittee. Mayor Alexander also asked for volunteers for the Housing Summit Steering Committee. Councilmembers Deborah Robertson, Bart Doyle, and Kathryn McCullough volunteered.

Transportation and Communication Committee Meeting Summary

June 5, 2003

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4.1

The TCC presided over the staff request to release the draft "Destination-2030," Regional Transportation Plan for a 45 day public review. Staff provided a presentation on the plans components, performance and schedule. Overall the draft plan was well received with some concerns that focused on Operation Jump-Start's predisposition with truck lanes on the I-710, and the March ARB aviation forecast. The Jump-Start issue was resolved as staff was directed to address all truck lanes in the draft as "capacity enhancements." The concerns for March ARB were brought forth by representatives from Riverside, who expressed a desire that the projected 8 map under the proposed plan be reduced to the previous plan number of 1.7 map. TCC agreed not to amend the proposed plans numbers and staff was directed to work with the March JPA to address the issue. TCC approved the release of the draft plan.